Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Work Force Participation Rate (WFPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) in Himachal Pradesh as per Usual Status Approach was as follows:—

Item	1993-1994(%)		1999-2000 (%)	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
LFPR	37.2	55.6	34.4	50.9
WFPR	36.3	55.4	32.2	50.3
UR	2.6	0.5	6.6	1.2

LFPR and WFPR are with reference to population whereas the UR is with reference to labour force.

(b) The main reason for the rise in the Unemployment Rate was that the economic development was not sufficient to absorb all the new entrants to the Labour Force and backlog of unemployed.

(c) The Ninth Plan had accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The plan had focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

A special group has been set up by Planning Commission to suggest measures to generate one crore employment opportunities during each year of the Tenth Five Year Plan. All these will help generation of employment in Himachal Pradesh as well.

Bill on right to information

†1321. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision with regard to get the Bill giving Right to Information to the general public passed in the House;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this Bill was introduced in the House last year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the date of its introduction and the reasons for delay in passing this Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) to (d) Government has introduced the 'Freedom of Information Bill, 2000' in the Lok Sabha on July 25, 2000. The Bill, as introduced in the Lok Sabha and pending therein, was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report thereon. The Standing Committee has since presented its Report to both the Houses of Parliament on July 25, 2001. The recommendations made by the Committee are under examination. Decision to move a motion to get the Bill passed will be taken by the Government thereafter.

Lifting Freeze on LTC

1322. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for lifting freeze on LTC for the Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Relay Hunger Dharna by CSS Members

1323. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether members of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) are on relay hunger dharna for more than 400 days just behind the Parliament House for redressal of their grievances pertaining to removal of stagnation and pay scales;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have not called their representative for resolving the issues through discussion;